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From: Shore, Berry
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Subject: POFA/PFOS Hoosick Falls and Newburgh Clips

Companies to start state required cleanup efforts in Hoosick Falls

By Edward Damon

Posted: 07/12/2016 09:39:34 PM EDT

Bennington Banner

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. — Representatives of one company the state says is responsible for PFOA contamination will soon be in the village for cleanup efforts.

Both companies are expected to soon start requesting residents' permission to start testing groundwater on their property.

Honeywell International representatives will be staging an area within the next week, according to Mayor David Borge. The company will set up a trailer at the end of John Street near a former manufacturing plant it owns.

Representatives of Honeywell will begin knocking on doors and mailing letters requesting residents' permission to go onto their property, he said. Sample forms and letters will be posted on the village website in advance.

"I think the important point is that both Honeywell and Saint Gobain are being directed to move forward with their actual studies, get the groundwork done," Borge said during Tuesday night's Village Board meeting.

On June 1, representatives of Saint-Gobain and Honeywell signed the legally enforceable consent orders that also required they negotiate with the village within 45 days, or until July 16.

"We're in the final stages of working that through," Borge said.

While state officials look towards holding the companies accountable for pollution that may have taken place over decades, they're also searching for another water source to replace the three wells that are close to Saint-Gobain's McCaffrey Street plant.

Jim Quinn with the state Department of Environmental Conservation's remediation programs said the agency isn't waiting for Saint-Gobain or Honeywell.

"We're moving forward and they're trying to catch up to speed with us."

He said they need more information about mapping the contamination plume.

Responding to resident Kevin Allard's inquiry about news reports of elevated PFOA level at the former landfill on Walnut Street, Quinn said the formal sampling result data should be released soon.

Quinn said, to his knowledge, water from a groundwater sampling well at the capped landfill is tested routinely. Elevated levels of PFOA were found in the latest round of testing.

The landfill reportedly had a level of 21,000 parts per trillion, the highest found in the village to date. The next highest of 18,000 ppt was in a testing well at Saint-Gobain's McCaffrey Street facility. A capped landfill in Petersburg reportedly had 4,000 ppt.

Contact Edward Damon at 802-447-7567, ext. 111.

Another chemical found in Washington Lake

July 12, 2016

Mid-Hudson News

Photo: Washington Lake currently not supplying water to the city

NEWBURGH – There are apparently more than just PFOS and PFOA contaminants in Washington Lake, Newburgh's main water supply.

City Manager Michael Ciaravino revealed at Monday night's city council meeting that a radioactive chemical has also been found in the lake.

"What I have learned is that when you cut granite, certain radioactive emissions occur in the granite. There is one called strontium, which has been detected in previous water samples," he said. "We have asked the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to examine the relationship between this granite cutting concern and some of the other contaminants that have yet to be identified in our drinking water."

Ciaravino said there is a granite cutting business on Route 300 not far from Washington Lake that could be adding to the contamination problems.

The lake has been taken offline as a drinking water supply and Newburgh has been using water from the New York City aqueduct for the last number of weeks.

Newburgh awaits final state commitment to cover cost of water issues

July 9, 2016

Mid-Hudson News

NEWBURGH – The state Department of Environmental Conservation has said it would pay for Newburgh's tap of the New York City Catskill Aqueduct – as much as \$250,000 a month – while the city remediates the chemical contamination of its Washington Lake water source. The city and state agency continue to go back and forth on the wording of the formal document that sets forth the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The state has also agreed to pay the cost of design, construction and implementation of a new carbon filtration in Washington Lake and while Newburgh's administration would like to see the expense picked up by the state for the long haul, Mayor Judy Kennedy is not so optimistic that it would.

"I have a hard time believing that they are going to agree to pay \$1.2-something million a year for these filters and all these things and these tanks in perpetuity," Kennedy said.

The actual source of the chemical contamination has not yet been identified; however, the federal Department of Defense is investigating the possibility that it may have come from, at least in part, the New York Air National Guard base at nearby Stewart Airport.

One thing is certain right now, that city residents are drinking safe, clean water from the New York City aqueduct.

DEC: High PFOA levels found at Hoosick Falls dump

By Lindsay Nielsen

Published: July 12, 2016, 4:31 pm | Updated: July 12, 2016, 6:14 pm

News Channel 10 ABC Albany

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. (NEWS10) – The DEC outlined their investigation into the sources of PFOA contamination in Hoosick Falls to NEWS10 ABC on Tuesday.

DEC Officials say one water sample at monitoring wells at the former Hoosick Falls Municipal landfill came back at 21,000 ppt of PFOA, 300 times the higher than the EPA advisory level.

“Hoping that a lot of the younger people I guess I feel will have better luck,” Janice Tate, of Hoosick Falls, said.

Tate wants a safer future for the next generation in her village, one free of water poisoned with the toxic chemical PFOA.

Officials have also sampled illegal dumping sites, farming, and other industrial sites.

2016 PFOA Sample Results Near Landfill in Hoosick Falls

The DEC says it does not believe that PFOA at the landfill is impacting municipal drinking water or private wells. They believe the main source of contamination is the McCaffrey Street site that is now owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics.

Tate says she worked there for eight years when it was by Oak Mitsui.

One man who did not want to go on camera says he worked at the site in the 1970s and recalls dumping the hazardous chemical down the floor drains.

“Through the ongoing investigation, the state and responsible parties will be looking at all past practices at these facilities,” NYS DEC Chief of Staff Peter Walke said.

A spokesperson for Saint-Gobain sent the following in an e-mail to NEWS10 ABC:

“ Following the approval by the NYS DEC, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics will implement a Site Characterization Work Plan at the Liberty Street site which is scheduled to begin on or about July 18th. The work is part of the investigation into the source or sources of groundwater contamination. The Liberty Street site is one of two sites in Hoosick Falls owned by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. We understand that other sites not owned by Saint-Gobain where fluoropolymers materials were processed within Hoosick Falls are also going to be investigated. We will continue to cooperate with local, state, and federal officials as we have since first learning of the situation so that the residents of Hoosick Falls can continue to access clean drinking water.”

The DEC sent the following statement:

“ Through DEC’s ongoing Superfund investigation into PFOA contamination in the Hoosick Falls area, DEC has undertaken extensive sampling of the Hoosic River, the now closed Hoosick Falls Municipal landfill and other locations throughout the town including tips of illegal dumping sites, farms and other industrial sites. The attached map includes sampling results of the Landfill and Hoosic River in the vicinity of the landfill, and shows elevated readings of PFOA in landfill monitoring wells including one high sample of 21,000 ppt.

The initial sample results of river water up and down stream of the landfill do not indicate that PFOA from the landfill is impacting water quality in the Hoosic River or wells feeding the municipal water supply or private homes. DEC is refining and focusing our investigation based on these sampling results, to determine how the elevated contamination levels observed at the landfill monitoring wells are impacting the surrounding area, and identify those responsible for this contamination.

DEC is now examining historical records of surrounding companies that may have disposed industrial wastes in the landfill and will aggressively pursue those responsible for this pollution. DEC will require any responsible parties identified to undertake a full investigation of the landfill and determine the full nature and extent of the contamination as they develop the appropriate remediation plan to clean up their mess. DEC will ensure that as we make those responsible for the contamination pay for the remediation

there is no additional contamination in the public water system, which is regularly tested, from this area of contamination.”

High PFOA levels found at old landfill

By Heather Kovar | Tuesday, July 12th 2016

News Channel 6 , WRGB Albany

HOOSICK FALLS--People in Hoosick Falls are reacting to some of the highest PFOA numbers recently released by DEC.

Levels coming out of the old landfill are more than 300 times the safe level set by the state.

Those who used to play in an old swimming hole next to the landfill; want more than the scheduled hearings, they want action.

Loreeen Hackett has lived in Hoosick Falls most of her life. She says back in the early 80's she used to swim in this water.

"We used to watch the turtles coming in and out. It was just amazing. We had a rope swing, it was fantastic," said Hackett.

The area she is talking about is just behind the old dump, which is now the transfer station. Hackett describes how she saw her high school spot get spoiled.

"It was green and like an oily slime that started coming in, and we knew it had to be coming from the dump."

The DEC says PFOA levels from testing the land of the old dump are 21- thousand parts per trillion.

The state has set safe water levels at 70 ppt.

The DEC tells me the sample results of river water up and down stream of the landfill do not indicate that PFOA from the landfill is impacting water quality in the Hoosic River or wells feeding the municipal water supply or private homes.

"It scares me to imagine between that knowing we are swimming in it, the factories were going at the time, what our levels would have been back then," said Hackett.

Over in Petersburg, the town released preliminary numbers of water coming off its old landfill - at 440 parts per trillion.

The DEC says it is still verifying those, and will release confirmed levels soon.

Hackett says she wants to see some accountability.

The DEC says it is refining and focusing its investigation, to determine how the elevated contamination levels observed at the landfill monitoring wells are impacting the surrounding area, and identify those responsible.

Back in March, the State officials gave the Hoosick Falls water supply a clean bill of health.

Hospital to host forums on PFOA

Posted: 07/12/2016 09:40:27 PM EDT

Bennington Banner

RENSSELAER COUNTY, N.Y. — A New York City hospital studying the health effects of water contaminated by a reputed cancer-causing chemical will host a pair of public forums at the end of the month.

Physicians from Mount Sinai Hospital will meet with residents of Petersburg and Hoosick Falls, N.Y. to discuss health concerns of PFOA. The forums will be held on Friday, July 29 at 6 p.m. at the Petersburg Veterans Memorial Community Center on Main Street; and again on Saturday, July 30 at 11 a.m. at the Hoosick Falls Armory on Church Street. Additional dates are possible, according to a news release from the state Department of Health.

PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, is a synthetic substance used in the manufacture of non-stick cookware, dental floss, electrical insulation, fabrics and other products. Chronic exposure has been linked to testicular cancer, kidney cancer, thyroid disease, high cholesterol, ulcerative colitis and pregnancy-induced hypertension. Studies suggest other possible health consequences, including a connection to pancreatic cancer.

The chemical was first discovered in the Hoosick Falls municipal water supply in 2014. Tests later found PFOA in private wells in the village and town of Hoosick, and then in public and private water sources in Petersburg. Honeywell International and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics are responsible for the contamination in Hoosick Falls, while Taconic Plastics is likely responsible for the contamination in Petersburg, according to state and federal officials.

All three companies have agreed to pay for interim measures such as home and municipal filtration systems to remove PFOA, bottled drinking water, and other costs related to investigations and cleanup. Saint-Gobain and Honeywell have signed consent orders with the state.

DOH in January initiated a confidential PFOA "biomonitoring program" for people who

have lived or worked in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg. The program has measured PFOA levels in the blood of more than 2,500 participants to provide information about their exposures, according to DOH.

As well as providing area health care providers with information, the state agency also partnered with Mount Sinai physicians with environmental exposure expertise to provide residents with an additional resource to discuss blood test results.

Mount Sinai Hospital is available to all individuals who participated in the biomonitoring program by calling 1-866-265-6201.

New inquiries open into handling of Hoosick Falls water crisis

by Karen DeWitt (NYS Capitol Correspondent) , in Albany, NY

WNCPR – North County Public Radio

Jul 11, 2016 — Governor Cuomo's administration faces greater scrutiny over handling of the Hoosick Falls water crisis. In recent days a Congressional committee opened an inquiry, and both the state Assembly and Senate will hold hearings.

Senator Kathy Marchione, whose district includes the village of Hoosick Falls, is the latest to open an inquiry into the handling of the water crisis, amid allegations that the Cuomo administration knew the water was contaminated with the chemical PFOA, but delayed telling residents for over a year. "The Senate is going to be holding hearings," said Marchione. "The first one will be held here, in Hoosick Falls."

Marchione had resisted holding the hearings for months, saying they would only lead to finger pointing. She has been heavily criticized on social media. Her announcement came after U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand held a listening session at the Hoosick Falls High School with village residents. They spoke emotionally about the high levels of the toxic chemical PFOA, which was used in the manufacture of Teflon products by a nearby plant, and was found in their blood. Michael Hickey was one of the first to become concerned when his father died of a rare kidney cancer. Now, he worries about

his own son, who is growing up in the village. “I started as a heartbroken son,” said Hickey. He said he’s now a “scared father.”

The residents are also angry about the way they were informed of the levels of the toxin in their blood. The state health department mailed the test results on a Friday, so many arrived over the weekend. Recipients say they were offered little support when they received the devastating news, something the health department denies.

Perhaps the most consequential inquiry though, is one begun by the Congressional Oversight Committee, which is demanding the Cuomo Administration hand over all documents and communications related to Hoosick Falls and PFOA from May 2014 on. In a letter, the committee cited other documents that show health department officials knew of the potential contamination for over a year, but did not tell residents that they might be in danger. The committee says the “sluggish response” “raises serious questions”, and “caused residents to remain exposed to dangerous levels of PFOA”.

“That’s nothing short of a bombshell,” said Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin who represents Hoosick Falls in the Assembly. He has called for more scrutiny. And McLaughlin, a former commercial airline pilot, said he was pleased that the Democratic-led State Assembly has now agreed to hold hearing, bringing the number of inquiries to three. “When an airplane crashes we don’t just say, ‘let’s move forward,’” McLaughlin said. “We break that whole accident down, and we analyze it so it doesn’t happen again.”

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A spokesman for Governor Cuomo, James Allen, responding to the letter from the federal oversight committee, said the administration will “gladly share” their experience, but he put some of the blame on the EPA, saying there were “shifting guidelines and absence of regulation.”

Governor Cuomo, asked about the committee’s requests during a recent trip to Utica, focused on all of the actions he’s taken since January of this year, when he declared parts of the village a state Superfund site, began actions against the potentially responsible company, St Gobain, and installed water filters. “There’s nothing else that we could do,” Cuomo said.

The first hearings, held by the State Senate, will begin in August